

Chapter 10
ENLSITED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM, NUCLEAR OPTION
(NECP)

1. References

- (a) OPNAVINST 1160.6A
- (b) OPNAVINST 1560.9
- (c) BUPERSINST 1780.1
- (d) Manual of the Medical Department (NAVMED P-117)

2. Program Information

a. The Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) (Nuclear Option) (NECP) provides a full-time opportunity for exceptional enlisted personnel in the nuclear propulsion training pipeline to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in an engineering or technical major, obtain a regular commission, and become a nuclear-trained officer.

b. NECP is available at the following Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) host universities:

- University of Arizona
- Auburn University
- University of Idaho
- University of Illinois
- University of Kansas
- University of New Mexico
- North Carolina State University
- Oregon State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Texas
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin

c. NECP students receive full pay and allowances, based on their enlisted paygrade, and are eligible for advancement while in college. It is highly recommended that all requirements for the next advancement exam be completed prior to detaching from present command.

Enclosure (1)

d. Program applicants should review reference (a) for specific details regarding Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) eligibility. All special duty assignment pay ceases upon transfer to the NROTC affiliated university.

e. NECP students must pay for tuition, books and other fees incurred as a student in the NECP. Students are not eligible for the Navy's Tuition Assistance Program in accordance with reference (b). Eligible students may use the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or the Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) contained in reference (c). The MGIB program requires at least one year of monthly \$100 allotments before any benefits can be drawn, so an early start is important.

f. Selectees are required to complete degree requirements for technical degrees in not more than 36 calendar months. Program participants attend school on a full-time, year-round basis beginning in the summer of the year selected. NECP students must pursue academic majors approved by the Program Manager. The following majors currently approved:

Mathematics

Physics

Chemistry

Engineering (less industrial)

Computer Science restricted to the following:

- University of Idaho (Scientific Option)
- University of Texas (Engineering Option)
- University of Washington (Engineering Option)

g. There are two different commissioning options available to an NECP officer candidate. The majority of officer candidates will be commissioned through Officer Candidate School following receipt of their degree. However, on a case by case basis, an NECP officer candidate can be commissioned in a manner similar to that of a NROTC midshipman, i.e., at the host NROTC unit after completing the required Naval Science courses. The commissioning option should be the one that allows the officer to maximize his/her academic performance.

Enclosure (1)

3. Eligibility Requirements

- a. U.S. citizenship is required and cannot be waived.
- b. Marital Status: No restrictions. (Note married applicants must be made aware of the financial requirements associated with the ECP program. In addition, the demanding nature of a college program may interfere with normal family life. Historical data indicates that married personnel have a more difficult time completing the program.)
- c. Age: Nuclear training pipeline students and Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit (NPTU) staff pickup instructors must be commissioned prior to their 26th birthday. Sea returnee staff instructors must be commissioned prior to their 31st birthday.
- d. Moral character and conduct. Applicants must be of good moral character and have no courts-martial or civilian felony convictions, no record of disciplinary action under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and no conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years receding application for the program. Any substantiated drug use or alcohol abuse will result in disqualification.
- e. Applicants must have completed or be enrolled in Nuclear Power School or NPTU, or be a staff pickup or sea returnee instructor at NPTU or NNPTC (Nuclear Field "A" School (NFAS) or Nuclear Power School (NPS)).
- f. Performance record. Applicants must have demonstrated exceptional performance and motivation throughout their naval service. Academic performance at every naval school attended is a significant factor in this evaluation.
- g. Education and Scholastic Aptitude Requirements.
 - (1) Have completed sufficient undergraduate course work to complete requirements for a technical degree in a maximum 36 months, including summers. The 36-month period

Enclosure (1)

will be shortened for those personnel who have earned a significant number of college credits and can complete a Baccalaureate degree in a shorter time. The specific allowable time to complete the degree will be determined by the university. An extension of one additional fall semester (6 months) beyond the 36 months may be approved for students enrolled in established five-year degree programs. Personnel with no previous undergraduate work should have, as a minimum, demonstrated above average high school performance particularly in math and science subjects. Personnel with previous undergraduate work must have demonstrated the ability to maintain an average >2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Waivers may be requested for deserving individuals with undergraduate averages ≤ 2.5 .

(2) Selectees will major in an engineering or technical curriculum approved by the Program Manager and maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. This curriculum must include one year of calculus and one year of calculus-based physics.

(3) Applicants must have scored a minimum of 1,140 (combined math/verbal) on a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) taken within three years prior to 1 January of the application year. Applicants must submit these scores by providing a copy of the SAT test scores with their application. Applicants are encouraged to contact their Command Career Counselor or Navy College Office for information on local availability of the SAT.

(4) Individuals who have already obtained their baccalaureate degree are not eligible for NECP and should apply directly for Officer Candidate School (OCS).

h. Physical qualification. Must be physically qualified for appointment in the Unrestricted Line (URL). Applicants must notify Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET-OTE31) of any change to their medical status (e.g. broken bones, surgery, pregnancy, etc.), which occur after the physical examination is completed. The most common

Enclosure (1)

disqualifying conditions for URL commissioning include defective color vision, eyesight uncorrectable to 20/20, and applicants out of height, weight, and body fat standards. Applicants must meet Navy height, weight, and body fat standards at time of application and maintain these standards after selection and through commissioning.

i. Recommendation. Applicants must receive an endorsement from their commanding officer.

4. Application Submission Procedures and Deadlines.
Application Procedures.

a. Applications must be received by the Program Manager by 1 November of the application year.

b. Additional documents required for the application are identified in the checklist at the end of this chapter. To ensure your application is complete, review the application checklist.

5. Information and Guidance for Commanding Officers. Upon receipt of an application the commanding officer will:

a. Appoint a board of three naval officers to interview and evaluate each applicant. A minimum of three officers' interviews is required. Use the Interviewer's Appraisal Sheet NAVCRUIT 1100/13 in the Officer Programs Application (Chapter 2).

(1) Interviews may be conducted separately or simultaneously by a panel of officers. The officers conducting the interview should be O-3 and above nuclear trained URL Officers (1110/5, 1120/5).

b. The Commanding Officer will provide a recommendation for each applicant in the form of an endorsement. In the applicant's endorsement, the Commanding Officer shall state that the candidate is recommended for the ECP (Nuclear Option) and certify that the candidate is physically qualified for an

Enclosure (1)

officer program as specified in reference (d). Additionally, the endorsement must address and justify any waivers requested by the applicant. Commanding Officers should utilize the current fiscal year Enlisted Commissioning Program Letter issued by CNO (N133) for complete application endorsement guidance.

c. Forward applications to:

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Manpower and Personnel) (N133)
2 Navy Annex
Washington, DC 20370

6. Medical Examination Information. Applicants are required to submit a completed Report of Physical Examination (SF 88) and Report of Medical History (SF 93) with the program application. Applicant must ensure the following is included:

- a. Results of a current chest x-ray if there is a history of pulmonary disease or of smoking.
- b. Results of a current EKG.
- c. Height and weight or a determination of body fat percentage if member exceeds Navy height/weight standards.
- d. An eye refraction for applicants with less than 20/20 vision uncorrected. Eyesight must be correctable to 20/20.
- e. A Farnsworth Lantern test must be administered to determine color vision. Defective color vision is disqualifying for URL commissioning. No waivers will be considered.
- f. Intraocular Tension must be completed and documented.
- g. All female applicants must have the results of a Papanicolaou's Stain (PAP) and Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) test documented on the SF 88.

Enclosure (1)

h. Applicants must meet all physical qualifications for commissioning in the URL.

7. Administrative Information

a. Change of address. Applicants must notify the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) (OTE31) in writing of any change in mailing address.

b. Service Obligation

(1) Selectees must have a six-year active service obligation. Members who do not have the requisite minimum obligated service must agree to extend their enlistment utilizing NAVPERS 1070/621 or NAVPERS 1070/622. Selectees are authorized to reenlist more than one year early if they are unable to satisfy six-year obligated service requirement with an extension of 48 months or less. The reason for extension of enlistment should state "Training (NECP)." The following statement of understanding should be included with the reason for extension of enlistment: "I understand that upon admission to a university under this program, this agreement becomes binding and may not thereafter be canceled except as provided by the MILPERSMAN."

(2) If disenrolled from NECP, officer candidates will be screened for return to the nuclear propulsion program in their current enlisted rate. Disenrolled members will be required to serve time remaining on their six-year obligation.

(3) Those NECP disenrollees that complete degree requirements but fail to be commissioned will be obligated for five years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment.

(4) Nuclear power officer candidates disenrolled for any reason will not be permitted to remain in the NECP.

(5) Nuclear power officer candidate selectees will incur a five-year active duty obligation upon commissioning.

Enclosure (1)

c. Withdrawal of Application or Recommendation

(1) Applicants may withdraw from consideration any time prior to transfer from present duty station. A selectee wishing to withdraw should decline transfer orders and notify the Chief of Naval Education and Training (OTE31).

(2) Commanding Officers must notify CNET (OTE31) immediately of circumstances that would affect the member's continued program eligibility. These circumstances include a marked drop in overall performance, civilian or military violations which have resulted or have the potential to result in conviction or imposition of punishment, or other circumstances which would affect the individual's program eligibility.

d. Transfer Policy

(1) If an NECP selectee has longer than 90 days after NPS graduation prior to scheduled transfer date to the NECP university, the student should be transferred to NPTU. This allows sufficient time for the student to complete the outhull training phase at NPTU. Where possible, NNPTC should coordinate with the NPTU in advance to work out arrangements with students from a prior class who have lost roommates.

(2) If NECP selectees have longer than six months after NPTU graduation prior to scheduled transfer date to the NECP university, graduates should be transferred to their next command. This allows the graduates the opportunity to experience life at sea and complete some follow on training prior to starting the NECP.

(3) The Commander, Navy Personnel Command, will issue transfer directives. Commanding Officers shall ensure selectees complete obligated service requirements prior to transfer. Transfer directives are normally issued upon physical qualification by Bureau of Medicine (BUMED) and acceptance at the designated university, ordering selectees to

Enclosure (1)

report to the host NROTC unit of the college or university in time for commencement of the summer session.

e. Nuclear power officer candidates will be assigned to host NROTC units for administrative purposes only. As nuclear option candidates have to carry a very heavy academic load in order to complete an engineering or technical major in 36 months, their involvement in NROTC unit activities that may affect their academic performance will be minimized.

8. Inquiries. Information and questions concerning the Enlisted Commissioning Program (Nuclear Option) may be directed to:

Chief of Naval Education and Training
CNET OTE31
250 Dallas Street
Pensacola, FL 32508-5220
(850) 452-4050/DSN 922

9. Career Counselors Note. Eligible nuclear training site Career Counselors refer to current fiscal year Nuclear Officer Programs NECP letter 1530 Serial N133C/XXXXXX for amplifying instructions for application.

Enclosure (1)